Hazarous effect of the pesticides

4073. SHRI MEINTAY PADMANA-BHAM:

SHRI VIREIN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RANJIT SINGH:

Will the (Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press report "Pesticides: Boon or bane" published in the Indian Express (Bombay) of 19th February, 1992;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware about the reports of the WHO and UN to the effect that the level of chlorinated pesticides intake is higher among Indians than among people of other countries;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any survey or investigation in this regard and if so, what are the details;

(d) whether Government have made any efforts to reduce the use of DDT and BHC beyond tolerance limits; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to make the people aware of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULL APP ALLY RAMAOHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Investigations made by Govern ment Institutions/other organisations in collaboration with FAO-WHO to analyse the residue level of chronated pesticides like DDT and BHC in various food com modities have revealed that the residues were within the tolerance limits in majo rity of samples. Similarly, as per the studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical' Research under the WHO/ UNEP Project, the level of residue of DDT and BHC in mother's milk were found *to be* comparable to some of the developed countries.

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(d) Considering the recommendations of an Expert Committee, the Government have withdrawn the use of DDT in Agri culture and restricted its use to 10,000 MT for public health purposes per annum. The use of BHC is not permitted on vege tables, fruits, oil seed crops and for pre servation of foodgrains.

The State Governments are advised to popularise the substitute insecticides to further reduce the use of BHC.

The Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for DDI and BHC have been fixed for agricultural' commodities under the Pre-vention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to regulate the same.

(e) The major steps taken by the Gov ernment to create awareness among peo ple on the safe and judicious use of pesti cides are given below:

(i) Training of Extension Functionaries at various levels on different aspects of pesticides including safe handling and uses is imparted both by the concerned Department of Centre and the State Governments.

(ii) The State Extension Functionaries organise demonstration and train farmers to create awareness on the safe and judicious use of pesticides. The training includes the precautions required to be observed to overcome the hazardous effects of pesticides.

(iii) The Associations of Pesticide In. dustries as also individual firms manu-facturing pesticides also organises de-monstrations and training programmes at grass-root level to create awareness on the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

(iv) Further, to reduce the use of pesticides, Government is advocating the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This approach emphasises on pest surveillance, use of non-chemical methods of pest management like cultural, mechanical, biological control and use of chemical[1] pesticides only when pest attack crosses Economic Threshold Level (ETL).